MEMORANDUM

TO: BDAC Water Transfer Water Group

FROM: Mary Selkirk
                Michael G. Heaton

DATE: January 6, 1998

SUBJECT: Water Transfers - Technical/Operational Issues

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At the first Water Transfer Work Group meeting in July 1997, the sense of the Work Group was that it should focus its efforts initially on the broad policy issues related to third party impacts and groundwater resource protection. Participants acknowledged, however, that there are a number of other issues which arise in the discussion about water transfer policy. Some of these issues were identified in the Discussion Paper dated July 17,1 997, an excerpt of which is attached.

Several participants have expressed an interest in having the Work Group consider and discuss some of these issues. CALFED Staff and consultants have prepared several short papers which attempt to define a particular issue, provide some background and perspective on the issue, and suggest some possible solution options.

Two of these papers will be distributed at the January 21, 1998 Work Group meeting: Issue Paper No. 1 - Transferable Water; and Issue Paper No. 4 - Access to Facilities (Wheeling). While these issues are technical and operational in nature, the development of a CALFED water transfer policy framework might benefit from stakeholder discussion of these issues, particularly discussion of possible solution options which might be incorporated into the CALFED policy.

It should be emphasized that these issue papers do not reflect the views of any particular CALFED agency, nor do they represent any policy decision by CALFED managers. Their purpose is simply to provide a basis for discussion among Work Group members and participants and to encourage creative thinking about water transfer issues.

Other issue papers will be brought to the Work Group as they are developed. The Work Group may wish to consider which of the issues identified in the July 17 paper (or other issues related to water transfers) should be brought to the Work Group for consideration.